The Examiner rejected Claim under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Roske '952 (US 4,323,952). The Applicant has cancelled claim without prejudice.

The Examiner stated that Claim 2-7 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph noted above and to include all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicant has amended Claim 2 to overcome the 35 USC 112 rejections and claim 2 has been amended to include all the limitations of Claim 1. Unfortunately, the undersigned did not find the cited second paragraph problems cited by the Examiner in Claims 4-7. Claims 3-7 are dependent upon amended Claim 2 directly or indirectly.

It is believed that the foregoing amendments and remarks fully comply with the Office Action and that the claims herein should now be allowable to Applicants. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance is requested.

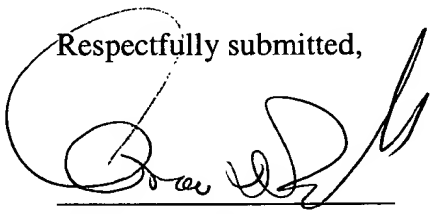
Applicants have petitioned for a two month extension of the response under 37 CFR 1.136(a) from June 28, 2001 to August 28, 2001 and have provided for the payment of the fee as specified under 37 CFR 1.17(a)(1).

The applicants have attached as Exhibit 1, the Claims as amended and now in the case as required under 37 CFR 1.121.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 501648 maintained by Applicants' attorneys.

The Applicant respectfully request reconsideration of the application and an early allowance of Claim 2-7.

Respectfully submitted,



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2. (Amended) A backlighting panel construction having first and second modes of operation, comprising;

an electro-optical panel having a light emission state in which said electro-optical panel emits light, and a light transmission state in which said electro-optical panel is optically transparent; and

state selection means for selecting said light emission state of said electro-optical panel during said first mode, and said light transmission state of said electro-optical panel during said second mode,

wherein during said first mode, said electro-optical structure emits light from said electro-optical panel,

further wherein during said second mode, said electro-optical panel permits light produced from an external source to be transmitted through said electro-optical panel without substantial scattering.

further wherein a ~~[said]~~ said light ~~producing means~~ comprises a layer of electroluminescent material interposed between first and second optically transparent conducting electrode layers;

further wherein said first and second optically transparent conducting electrode layers are disposed against first and second optically transparent panels, respectively; and

further wherein said layer of electroluminescent material is optically transparent in said light transmission state.

3. The backlighting panel construction of claim 2, wherein said electroluminescent material is aluminum dioxide.

4. The backlighting panel construction of claim 2, which further comprises a light reflective surface removably positionable against said electro-optical panel.

5. The backlighting panel construction of claim 2, which further comprises a Fresnel lens structure physically affixed to said electro-optical panel.

An image display device comprising:

6. ~~The backlighting panel construction of claim 2, which~~ further comprises a programmable spatial mask affixed to said backlighting panel construction.

7. The backlighting panel construction of claim 6, which further comprises an optically transparent touch-screen panel adjacent said programmable spatial light mask, wherein said optically transparent touch-screen panel comprises:

a writing panel made of optically transparent material and having a first and second surfaces, said writing panel being deformable in response to the application of pressure on said first surface as a writing stylus is moved over said first surface;

a base panel disposed adjacent said writing panel, made from optically transparent material and having first and second surfaces, said second surface being disposed adjacent said spatial light mask;

a plurality of optically transparent conductive strips applied to the second surface of said writing panel, each said optically transparent conductive strip extending parallel to every other said optically transparent conductive strip and corresponding to a prespecified coordinate value along a first coordinate direction

in a two dimensional array represented along the writing surface of said writing panel, said two dimensional array also having a second coordinate direction;

an optically transparent conductive layer applied to the first surface of said base panel;

a viscous material disposed between said plurality of optically transparent conductive strips and said optically transparent conductive layer, said viscous layer containing microscopic spheres made of substantially non-conductive material and being free to move within said viscous material in response to said application of pressure by said writing stylus, so as to permit a selected one of said optically transparent conductive strips establish contact with said optically transparent conductive layer and permit electrical current to flow therebetween;

first coordinate determining means for determining the coordinate value along said first coordinate direction when said selected one of said optically transparent conductive strips established contact with said optically transparent conductive layer; and

second coordinate determining means for measuring said electrical current flow, and converting the measurement thereof into a second coordinate value along the second coordinate direction of said two-dimensional array.